

REDDICKS, STANLEY MITCHELL

October 10, 1920-February 19, 2009

A memorial service for Stanley Mitchell Reddicks, 88, will be held at 11 A.M. Saturday, February 28, 2009 at the Wheatland United Methodist Church in Wheatland, Wyoming with Pastor Skip Perry officiating. Inurnment with military rites accorded by Ora Call American Legion Post #10 and Laramie Peak Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #3558 will be in the Wheatland Cemetery.

He died Thursday, February 19, 2009, at the Medical Center of the Rockies in Loveland, Colorado from injuries sustained from a fall on Wednesday, February 18.

Stan was born October 10, 1920 in Maude, KY, the son of Hollie and Ethel (Royalty) Reddicks, and reared in DeKalb, Illinois. As a child, he enjoyed spending summers on his parental grandparents' tobacco farm. He played the trumpet and sang in the a cappella choir in high school, played in Air Force recreational bands and enjoyed jazz sessions with friends.

During World War II, Stan was accepted as a cadet in the Army Air Corps before being commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Army Air Corps. He completed bombardier training and bombardier instructor training in Texas. Following training he was assigned as a combat crew member on the B-24 Liberator Heavy Bomber. His unit departed for the allied bomber base in Lecce, Italy. His unit, the 345th Bomb Squadron, was part of the 98th Bomb Group of the 15th Air Force. From Lecce, he flew combat missions over Axis Powers targets in northern Italy, southern France, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and Romania. These included major bombing raids against the Nazi held oil fields of Ploesti (Romania) and Bratislava (Czechoslovakia) where they bombed ball-bearing factories.

While stationed at Midland AFB, Stan met and married Audrey Gwendolyn Ray, an army nurse, at the Brooke Army Hospital Chapel at Fort Sam Houston, TX on May 24, 1945. After their discharge from military service, they moved to Moline, IL where Stan worked for the Bell Telephone Company, and their daughter Amber was born. Stan transferred with Bell Telephone Company to Mississippi where he reentered military service at Keesler Air Force Base, in Biloxi.

Their son Thomas was born in Salina, KS in 1948.

Stan served at several USAF bases in the United Kingdom from 1949-52; Scott AFB, IL; Lockbourne AFB, OH; Barksdale AFB, LA; Nagoya AFB, Japan; Kadena AFB, Okinawa; and with the Air Force Recruiting Service in Phoenix, AZ. Stan's final military assignment before retiring as a major in 1968 was at James Connally AFB in Waco, TX.

Stan was a dedicated soldier and patriot who immensely enjoyed military service. He did whatever it took to achieve top-notch results, and was known to use more than a few "Sergeant Bilko" strategies.

Following his military retirement, he took advantage of his skills as a manager, administrator and leader to work for ten years as a hotel manager in Memphis, TN, New Orleans, LA, and the Remuda Ranch Resort in Collier County, FL. Stan's final ten years before civilian retirement in November 1985 was as senior manager of New Orleans City Park, one of the largest urban parks in America.

Stan and Audrey relocated to Wheatland, WY in April 1995 to be near their son